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Time for climate and labour. I tried writing these as separate issues, but it just never really felt right. I realized that these two issues are so closely linked; it's hard to talk about one without the other. I started writing again, and then the NDP dropped details of its climate plan, and it all clicked together.

Of course, they need to be linked. The way we organize our economy is ruining the earth. This needs to change.

With the NDP's climate policy the party is proposing a massive shift in how our country makes money and powers itself. It's important that when this happens, we take the time to make sure we're changing labour practices to match. Too often we hear politicians talk about jobs, jobs, jobs. Not once have I heard mentioned careers, pension, benefits, or job security. I can work as hard as I want to join the middle class, if wages don't keep up with inflation, I'll never make it.

This transition away from fossil fuels and expendable products will be funded, at least initially, by government investment. It's important when awarding government contracts that are supposed to boost the Canadian economy that these jobs actually boost the Canadian economy.

For example, we're paying Irving a lot of money to build ships and create high paying jobs in Halifax. Overpaying for ships, we were told, was fine because it was going to boost Nova Scotia's economy. Instead, Irving is spending the money on a French fry plant in Alberta, bringing in foreign workers instead of hiring locally in the HRM and denying union members sick days. This type of exploitation needs to stop.

We also need to drastically change the way we live if we're going to stop climate change. The NDP's plan to make homes greener, make it easier to get electric cars, and change to green energy production are all very good steps in the right direction. And it's important to recognize in policy that even if everyone stopped using straws today, large corporations are still polluting at a massive scale.

I'm happy to be part of a party that is making such bold steps in the right direction. It's important though, that in this plan, the realities for those of us in Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada don't get forgotten or ignored in favour of vote-rich Ontario, Quebec and B.C. where parties tend to focus most of their policies.

My plan for climate and labour

- 1) Make sure all government contracts are awarded to companies that pay a living wage, provide benefits and job predictability.
- 2) Work with the provinces to ensure employees are paid fairly for the time they are expected to work. (if you are expected to answer an email at 2 a.m. you need to be compensated for that)
- 3) Make sure policies implemented in Ottawa also work for Nova Scotia.
- 4) Make sure environmental policies regulate corporations, recognizing the bulk of pollution is produced by them and not individual consumption.



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